

Review: *A Pocket Guide to UFOs and ETs: A Biblical and Cultural Perspective on Aliens*, Answers in Genesis, Hebron, KY, 2015

Pages: 91

Ever-More Relevant Topic for Today

With the widening spiritual vacuum in the West, what has mostly been modern entertainment of science fiction and aliens has become more serious. Powerful fiction worlds of Star Wars and Star Trek are cases in point, forming a significant part of the New Age religion, and often masquerading as atheism, agnosticism, and scientism.

This book provides a good historical footing of these fantasies including Orwell's War of the Worlds radio program, Kenneth Arnold's 'UFO' sighting, and the 1947 Roswell flying saucer 'discovery'.

The spiritual pitfalls where UFO religions can lead to are also highlighted by Rael's MADECH and the Heaven's Gate cult.

Due to the difficulty of disproving any UFO phenomena scientifically, impossibility of ET lifeforms looking at the Drake equation and known physical effects are combined to offer more than plausible explanations.

Introduction (pp. 7-9)

II) Why All the Interest in UFOs (pp. 11-27)

Star Trek, Star Wars, ET, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Alien, Men in Black, Doctor Who, and the X-Files are the most well-known science fiction series in Western culture.

Astrobiology is a growing 'scientific' field.

Little Green Men (LGM), Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and IFOs (Identified Flying Objects) acronyms.

On 26/6/1947, civilian aviator Kenneth Arnold was flying a small plane near Mount Rainier in Washington when he spotted an unusual flying object travelling less than twice the speed of sound

Giordano Bruno (1548-1600) was a Dominican Friar who was executed by the Roman Catholic church for heresy.

The Mormon Elohim was born a man on a planet orbiting a star called Kolob.

Jules Verne and H.G.Wells defined the science fiction genre.

The 1938 *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast spoof scared millions.

In 1965, Mariner 4 surveyed 10% of Mar's surface as it flew by.

In 1947, Roswell, the RAAF supposedly captured a Flying Saucer.

In 1947, the US Air Force conducted Project Sign to investigate UFOs which was replaced by Project Grudge in 1949, finding no evidence of ET activity. From 1952 to 1970 it conducted Project Blue Book.

In 1969, the Condon Report found no clear evidence of ET activity.

The Roswell UFO is said to have just been a weather balloon carrying sensitive microphones to a high altitude to detect sound waves from Soviet atomic bomb tests.

III) What Does the Bible Say? (pp. 29-39)

Dr Frank Drake's equation has seven factors which are all guesses:

N: number of communicative civilisations in our galaxy

R: average number of stars formed p.a. in the galaxy.

f_p : fraction of stars with planets.

n_e : number of planets able to support life.

f_i : planets which eventually develop life.

f_c : fraction of civilisations that develop detectable radio technology.

L: length of time until civilisations emit radio signals.

In the 1990s, astronomers began detecting extra-solar planets..

There are only 2,000 extra-solar planets known and so far n_e is 0!

World plurality only makes sense under heliocentrism.

IV) How Do We Explain All Those UFOs? (pp. 41-55)

Weather balloons are launched twice daily from 800 global locations giving over half a million.

Satellites are visible during the summer shortly after dark and before dawn.

66 satellites make up the Iridium Communications network.

Most meteors are burnt up in the atmosphere sixty miles up.

The *aurora borealis* are the northern lights, and the *aurora australis* the southern.

“Sun dogs” are two coloured patches of lights left and right of the sun obstructed by a cirrus-cloud streak. The images are at the same altitude but actually 22° away from it.

Noctilucent clouds are 50 miles high.

A fata morgana occurs when light in warm air near the ground reflects bounces back slower-travelling light directly underneath in cooler air causing objects to ‘float’. The Air Force concluded Kenneth Arnold saw a fata morgana.

Ball lightning is often called St Elmo’s fire.

In 1947, two men reported UFO debris over Maury Island and said a man in a dark suit told him not to mention the incident. This is the origin of the “men in black” movie franchise.

In the 1970s, crop circles began appearing in southern England (people studying these are called cereologists). These were unknown prior to 1978.

V) Is There an Alien Invasion of a Different Type? (pp. 57-64)

Vivisection is opening the body to observe live organ function.

VI) Have Extraterrestrials Visited Earth in the Past? (pp. 65-87)

In 1968, *Chariots of the Gods* by Eich von Daniken said aliens had visited earth in the past. This is called the “Ancient Astronaut Hypothesis” (AAH).

On Easter Island, deforestation caused rapid societal decline as there was no more fuel and the existing population was left stranded. When Europeans had arrived the natives had long since lost the knowledge to build the large stone monuments.

French sports car journalist Claude Vorihon became Rael. He said the Elohim were an alien race who flew spacecraft and that “Yahweh” told him to establish a new religion called MADECH (“movement for welcoming the Elohim, creators of humanity”).

In 1974, 2,000 people attended the first MADECH conference.

Rael founded Clonaid in 2002 and claimed to have cloned the first human, Eve.

In March, 1997, 39 members of the Heaven’s Gate cult committed suicide.

VII) What Are We to Think? (pp. 89-91)